

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/777,116

Examiner

Douglas Q. Tran

Applicant(s)

OZAKI, HIROSHI

Art Unit

2624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 1/05/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-34.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Tran

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-34 are allowed.

Claims 1, 12, 23, 34 are independent claims.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claims 1, 12, 23, 34, the present invention from the application discloses a data processing apparatus, method and program comprises “ displaying the additional information for both the confidential image data and the non confidential image data when the determining means determines to display the additional information for the confidential image data and controlling by the display control means to display the additional information for the non confidential image data when the determining means determining means determines not to display the additional information for the confidential image data”.

The closest prior art such as Yokoyama (US Patent No. 6,166,826), which is recorded on the Examiner's Remark, discloses a password required for releasing the secret specification is stored in the file management database; and Kim (US Patent No. 6,943,907), which is recorded on the Examiner's Remark, discloses when it is determined that the print type with respect to the received print data file is set to be confidential printing, the confidential print document message is displayed in the display device and an alarm is sounded by the sound output device 36. The confidential print document message displayed in the display device and/or the alarm sounded by the sound output device are for informing the user that requested the confidential document printing that the confidential document will now be printed.

However, the combination of the above prior art, including an updated electronic text search, fails to anticipate or render the above underlined limitations obvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Examiner's Remark

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

Yokoyama (US Patent No. 6,166,826) discloses a password required for releasing the secret specification is stored in the file management database.

Kim (US Patent No. 6,943,907) discloses when it is determined that the print type with respect to the received print data file is set to be confidential printing, the confidential print document message is displayed in the display device and an alarm is sounded by the sound output device 36. The confidential print document message displayed in the display device and/or the alarm sounded by the sound output device are for informing the user that requested the confidential document printing that the confidential document will now be printed.

Contact information

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Douglas Q. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7442 or E-mail address is douglas.tran@uspto.gov.

Feb. 16, 2006

**DOUGLAS Q. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER**

